

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph after the "TITLE OF THE INVENTION" paragraph on page 1, lines 1-3:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. National Phase application under 35 U.S.C. §371 of PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/011253, filed April 9, 2004, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/462,795, filed April 14, 2003.

After the last page, insert the paragraph:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A novel process is provided for the preparation of pyrrolidine carboxylic acids, and the useful intermediates obtained therein. These compounds are intermediates for the synthesis of melanocortin-4 receptor (MC-4R), which are useful for the treatment of disorders such as obesity, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, male sexual dysfunction, and female sexual dysfunction.